

Braintree & Bocking
URBAN DISTRICT

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

C. R. C. RAINSFORD

M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M.

FOR THE YEAR

1958

TOGETHER WITH THE

REPORT

OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

BRAINTREE and BOCKING URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Medical Officer of Health

C. R. C. RAINSFORD, M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M.

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Additional Public Health Inspector

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Clerk

N. D. GAYLER

Junior Clerk

R. J. HARDY (commenced October, 1958)

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,
Town Hall, Braintree.
May, 1959.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my annual report for 1958. In it you will find the usual statistics with regard to births and deaths and prevalence of infectious disease. The Area Medical Officer has kindly provided information about the clinics run by the Essex County Council and your Chief Public Health Inspector has compiled the second part of the report which deals mainly with environmental hygiene.

Vital Statistics

The population increased by 740 and is now estimated at 19,230. Ten years ago it was 17,450.

Total live births numbered 350 compared with 335 in 1957. Deaths. There were 215 deaths as against 219 last year.

The corrected birth and death rates are very similar to those of 1957.

The total infantile mortality rate was 28.6 per 1,000 live births, this represents 10 infant deaths.

The deaths were due to: Prematurity 2, cerebral haemorrhage 2, bronchopneumonia 3, bronchopneumonia with fibro cystic disease of pancreas 1, congenital heart disease 1 and hydrocephalus 1.

Analysis of the general table of deaths shows that there were 10 deaths from bronchitis, 9 from malignant disease of lung or bronchus and 2 from respiratory tuberculosis. The largest groups are as usual cardio vascular disease including vascular disease of the nervous system with 90 and malignant disease with 33.

Notifiable Infectious Disease

141 cases were notified throughout the year.

On the credit side I can report a clean sheet for poliomyelitis, only 2 cases of whooping cough, the lowest for 6 years, and only 21 cases of measles; this was expected after the very high incidence in 1957.

On the debit side we had an unusually high incidence of scarlet fever with 45 cases and of dysentery with 60 cases. Fortunately the type of scarlet fever was mild and the majority of patients were up and about within a few days.

All the dysentery cases were of the Sonne type which is a mild but highly contagious disease. It is common throughout the country, 31,000 being notified from England and Wales in 1958 and of these 1,000 came from Essex.

The disease is spread by close personal contact and is especially liable to spread in schools. The preventive measure is strict attention to washing the hands after using the toilet and before meals.

The very mildness of the disease makes it difficult to control, some may not even consult their doctors, the majority get better in 4 or 5 days but they remain infective for several weeks.

In such a mild disease heroic measures such as putting all patients off work until their specimens have been proved negative are unjustifiable. We concentrated on the control of food handlers and school children and school staff. To this end the following preventive measures were instituted.

1. All General Practitioners were circularised and asked to report cases.
2. Head teachers were circularised with regard to the importance of hand washing drill.
3. The homes of all notified cases were visited by a member of the Public Health Staff and advice was given on personal hygiene. Specimens were collected from the patient and other members of the family. In this way a number of unsuspecting cases were brought to light and sent to their doctors for treatment.
4. Proved cases were kept away from school and in the case of food handlers from work, until two consecutive specimens were reported free from dysentery germs.

The end of the dysentery story belongs to 1959 but it may be said that only 25 further cases were reported during the first 4 months of 1959.

I record my thanks to all who helped in bringing this little outbreak under control, to doctors, health inspectors and not least to parents.

A glance at the statistical table shows that 30 of the cases were in the 5-15 age group, i.e., schoolchildren, 11 in the 0-5 group and 17 in the 15 and over age group.

Immunisation and Vaccination

These services were carried on as in previous years by General Practitioners and by your Medical Officer on behalf of the Essex County Council.

A glance at the figures shows a big increase in the number vaccinated against poliomyelitis and a large drop in the total who received reinforcing injections against diphtheria. The 1957 figure for diphtheria was exceptionally big as it included many children who should have their injections in previous years. At the same time the drop needs watching, the diphtheria menace may be in a strait-jacket but it could break out again.

Environmental Hygiene

This field has been adequately covered by your Chief Public Health Inspector in the second part of this report.

You will note that the quality of the water was as usual, excellent, but the supply inadequate in some of the high areas of the town especially during periods of hot weather.

Work proceeds at the Codham Mill site where the second bore hole was started in August.

An old nuisance in the Notley Road area was eliminated by connecting thirteen properties to the sewer.

Improvement has been brought about at the overloaded Bocking Sewage Works by the institution of land drainage and the major improvement scheme is being prepared in conjunction with the consulting engineers.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

It was necessary to have one old man removed to hospital under the provisions of this act.

Housing

I am informed by the Housing Officer that although there were still approximately 500 names on the waiting list for Council houses at the end of 1958, there were much fewer really urgent cases. A demand for bungalows is increasing.

A total of 34 houses and 12 flats was completed by the Council during the year and it is hoped that this figure may be doubled in 1959.

I have pleasure in recording my thanks to the Chairman and all members of the Public Health Committee for their support during the year and to all officers of the Council for their help and advice.

A special word of thanks goes to Mr. Bayley and his staff for the extra work they put in on account of the dysentery outbreak.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

C. R. C. RAINSFORD,
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,
Town Hall, Braintree.
May, 1959.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BRAINTREE AND BOCKING
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting, in conjunction with the report of the Medical Officer of Health, my report on the work of the Public Health Inspectors for the year 1958.

The report, governed as it is by the nature of our work, closely resembles its immediate predecessors. I would like, however, to comment here on one or two matters.

It will be noted that all the ice cream samples submitted to the standard tests were classified in Provisional Grade I. This is the first time we have achieved this since the tests were introduced twelve years ago and is the culmination of a steady improvement in the bacterial quality of this food over that period.

Another matter worthy of special mention is the continued decline in the number of animals found to be suffering from tuberculosis after slaughter. The percentage of animals so affected is the lowest ever recorded in Braintree except for unusually low figures in 1956 in respect of beef animals, and has fallen steadily over the past ten years. As an example, the percentage of cows found to be affected with this disease in 1949 was 35.7% whereas last year the figure was 4.9%. Although the trade in Braintree mostly uses high quality animals, I believe the downward trend in this disease is general and is no doubt due to the work of the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and stockbreeders, assisted in many cases by the officers of local authorities, who have been making great efforts to reduce the incidence of tuberculosis and indeed other diseases in stock. It seems possible that in the foreseeable future this disease will become rare in food animals.

The instruments for measuring certain aspects of atmospheric pollution have now been in operation for about two years. It is too early to come to definite conclusions on the results so far obtained, but certain trends are evident. Mr. Thurston has prepared various figures from the information obtained. These are reproduced in the report and it is hoped they will be more interesting than a list of analysts reports and other data. A comparison has also been made with a few other towns and, as one would expect, it shows the smoke problem in Braintree is small compared with towns in industrial areas. Nevertheless, much of the smoke produced locally could be prevented, especially that from domestic sources. We have the means to achieve this by using the provisions of the Clean Air Act relating to smoke control areas.

In conclusion, I wish to thank you for your continued interest and support and to acknowledge the help and co-operation of my staff and fellow officers.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant, S. F. BAYLEY,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	6,811
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	19,230
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books	6,346
Rateable value	£241,651
Sum represented by a penny rate	£978

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS:

	Total	M	F
Legitimate	327	159	168
Illegitimate	23	11	12
Total live births—350			
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population	18.2		
Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.00	18.2		
Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population	16.4		

STILL-BIRTHS:

	Total	M	F
Legitimate	3	—	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 live and still-births	8.5		
Rate per 1,000 total births England and Wales	21.6		
Total live and still-births	353		

INFANTILE MORTALITY:

Deaths of infants under 1 year—

	Total	M	F
Legitimate	10	5	5
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total infant deaths—10			

Total infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births	28.6
Mortality rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	30.6
Mortality rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Neo Natal (first four weeks) mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...	22.9
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births	6.6
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	One
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	2.8

DEATHS:

	Total	M	F
	215	119	96
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	11.2		
Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.90	10.1		
Death rate per 1,000 population England and Wales	11.7		

All the above rates are calculated on the estimated population given by the Registrar General.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1958

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General and the classification is given under the thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	1	—
3. Syphilitic disease	1	1
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	12	4
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	17	13
18. Coronary disease, angina	12	9
19. Hypertension with heart disease	3	1
20. Other heart disease	13	20
21. Other circulatory disease	2	—
22. Influenza	—	1
23. Pneumonia	6	6
24. Bronchitis	5	5
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	4	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	—	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1
31. Congenital malformations	—	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	23	21
33. Motor vehicle accidents	—	—
34. All other accidents	2	3
35. Suicide	2	—
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—
All Causes	119	96

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

(a) Under the control of the Essex County Council:—

(i) **Braintree**—Essex County Health Services Clinic, Coggeshall Road:—

			Attendances
Speech Therapy	Every Monday	10 a.m.	386
Child Welfare	Every Tuesday	2 p.m.	2146
Ante-Natal and Women's Welfare	Every Wednesday	10 a.m. (By Appt.)	
Minor Ailments	Every Tuesday	10 a.m.	250
Dental	Mon., Wed. & Fri. (all day)	10 a.m. (By Appt.)	3116
Diphtheria Immunisation	1st Friday	3 p.m.	

Bocking—Village Hall.

Child Welfare	4th Thursday	2 p.m.	202
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(ii) **Home Help Service**:—

This useful service is administered from the Area Health Office, 75, Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

(iii) **Ambulance Service**:—

The Ambulance Station is situated in Cressing Road, Braintree. A full 24 hour cover is provided.

(iv) **Laboratory Services**:—

The Essex County Council provide a laboratory service which includes the bacteriological and chemical analysis of water samples, the chemical analysis of sewage effluents and the bacteriological examination of ice cream, and the examination of other foods for pathogenic organisms. These examinations are carried out by either the Counties Public Health Laboratories, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. or the Public Health Laboratory, Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, New London Road, Chelmsford.

(b) Under the control of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board:—

(i) **Chest Clinics**:—

These are held weekly at St. Michael's Hospital, Braintree.

(ii) **Orthopædic Clinics**:—

These are held every Wednesday afternoon and 2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings at the Essex County Health Services Clinic, Coggeshall Road, Braintree.

Orthopædic patients who need special advice are referred to Black Notley Hospital.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Diseases	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	60	1	—
Encephalitis ...	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis ...	—	—	—
Measles ...	21	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Paralytic Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	48	—	—
Tuberculosis, pulmonary	6	3	2
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	4	1	1
Whooping Cough ...	2	—	—
Totals ...	141	4	3

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE

Disease	At all Ages	under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and Over	Age Unknown
Diphtheria	—	4	3	2	2	2	24	6	—	9	3	—	1	1
Dysentery	60	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	21	—	1	3	3	1	12	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	48	—	—	2	—	1	41	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	2	1	—
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	141	4	4	7	5	5	81	11	—	10	4	3	3	4

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH

Disease	Total Notified	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	60	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	59
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	21	1	—	—	—	2	1	3	12	2	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	48	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	12	33
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary ...	6	—	1	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
Whooping Cough	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Totals	141	1	1	—	1	5	2	4	12	3	4	15	93

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 - 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 - 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 - 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 - 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 - 10	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
10 - 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 - 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 - 35	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 - 45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 - 65	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	1	—	1	1	1	1	—
Totals	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	—

Of these 2 were cases renotified on taking up residence in the District during 1958.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

Children who completed a full course of primary immunisation during the year				Children who were given a reinforcing injection during the year			
By General Practitioners		By County Staff		By General Practitioners		By County Staff	
1958	1957	1958	1957	1958	1957	1958	1957
(a) 175	(a) 159	80	131	55	72	68	412
Totals: 1958 - 255 1957 - 290				Totals: 1958 - 123 1957 - 484			

IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH

Children who completed a full course of immunisation under the County Scheme				Records of combined diphtheria pertussis immunisation received	
By General Practitioners		By County Staff			
1958	1957	1958	1957	1958	1957
24	—	51	36	(b) 151	(b) 131
Reinforcing injections					
1958	1957	1958	1957	1958	1957
7	—	1	—	31	34

Figure (b) is included in (a)

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

	1958	1957
Number vaccinated during the year:	166	160
Number re-vaccinated during the year:	46	136

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

	1958	1957
Number of 1st injections given during the year:	1717	908
Number of 2nd injections given during the year:	1676	513

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

The Council's deep wells at the Notley Road Waterworks and the Bocking Waterworks were the main source of supply used in 1958. From September, 1958 approximately 50 houses in the London Road area were supplied with water from the South Essex Water Board.

Following the test pumping from the trial borehole at Codham the Ministry have agreed with certain conditions to the extraction of approximately six million gallons per week. The second borehole was commenced in August.

Several meetings with neighbouring authorities were held during 1958 with a view to forming a Joint Water Board, but no definite scheme has yet been formulated.

The number of samples submitted for bacteriological examination during the year was as follows:—

			Raw Water	Water in Supply	Total
Notley Road Waterworks	...	...	3	2	5
Bocking Waterworks	...	...	2	2	4
South Essex Water Board	...	...	—	1	1
Private Wells	...	...	—	3	3

All the above samples were satisfactory with the exception of one sample from a private well. The occupier of the property served by the well was advised on remedial measures to combat the bacterial impurity.

Samples were also submitted for chemical analysis and the results of two samples are given as follows:—

Sample from Braintree Waterworks, 21.4.58.

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The hardness of the water is very moderate, its content of mineral and saline constituents although somewhat high is not considered excessive. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality and is of satisfactory bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes, apart from its content of fluorine being higher than that considered most desirable.

Sample from Bocking Waterworks, 28.4.58

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from the trace of iron. The water is hard in character but its hardness and content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes, although its iron content is a little higher than is usually desirable from the aspect of maintaining clarity throughout the distribution system.

Water Consumption in the District

The Council's Surveyor and Water Engineer has supplied the following figures:—

The amount of water pumped during 1958:—

	Gallons
Notley Road Waterworks	199,745,000
Bocking Waterworks	104,048,000
South Essex Water Board	647,870
Total	<u>304,431,870</u>

Based on a total population of 19,230 and allowing for 152 persons occupying 51 houses, who do not obtain a supply from the public mains, these figures represent an overall consumption of 43.7 gallons per head per day. The amount of water supplied through meters for trade and agricultural purposes was 62,589,620 gallons which is equivalent to 8.9 gallons per head per day, leaving a net consumption per head per day of 34.8 gallons for domestic purposes.

At present it is estimated that 19,078 persons who occupy 6,297 houses, are served by public mains. Of these, approximately 91 houses with an estimated population of 276 are served by 46 standpipes, 40 of which are situated in the open. There are also a considerable number of houses served by the public mains whose only supply is a tap situated in a washhouse entered from the yard.

There are 51 houses with private supplies, only 34 of these being piped inside.

The amount of water pumped during the year, including that obtained from the South Essex Water Board, fell by 1.4% compared with 1957. There seems little doubt that the reduced consumption was due to the wet summer resulting in less being used for gardening purposes.

Severe shortages occurred in certain high areas of the town during the few periods of hot dry weather.

Extensions for water mains were carried out for new development at Challis Lane, Skitts Hill and Dallwood Estate.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

A firm of consultants was engaged in connection with the proposed improvements to the Bocking Sewage Works. As a temporary measure all the effluent was given land treatment over ground acquired for this purpose and the final effluent showed improvement.

Thirteen properties in Notley Road previously served by cesspools which were causing gross pollution to neighbouring land were connected to the sewer and the cesspools filled in.

Two new sewers were laid in High Garrett to replace very old sewers which had collapsed.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection of household refuse which is under the control of the Council's Surveyor continued without serious interruption throughout the year.

Considerable trouble was experienced at one period with flies in the houses near the Rifle Hill Tip. On investigation it was found that these were cluster flies and had probably bred in orchard land nearby. The tip itself was regularly treated for flies when weather conditions made this desirable.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

(1) Number and Nature of Inspections.

During the year 1958, the following inspections were made by the Public Health Inspectors to the premises detailed:—

Nature of Inspections	Primary Inspections	Revisits	Total Visits
Housing—Housing Act	36	40	76
Housing—Public Health Act	52	68	120
Other Visits—Housing Act	62	28	90
Other Visits—Public Health Act	337	161	498
Notifiable Diseases	100	184	284
Water Supply and Sampling	19	4	23
Dairies and Milk Distributors	5	—	5
Milk Sampling	5	—	5
Food Hygiene Regulations and Food Bye-laws	36	17	53
Other Visits—Food and Drugs Act	22	1	23
Ice Cream Premises	3	—	3
Ice Cream Sampling	29	—	29
Meat and Food Inspection:—			
(a) Slaughterhouses	2750	1	2751
(b) Shops	59	1	60
(c) Markets	49	—	49
Factories Act (Power)	1	1	2
Factories Act (Building Sites)	11	4	15
Drainage	48	95	143
Atmospheric Pollution	322	2	324
Overcrowding	2	—	2
Rent Act	24	42	66
Moveable and Temporary Dwellings	16	2	18
Vermin and Insect Pests	16	6	22
Rat Infestations	7	5	12
Interviews Owners/Builders	27	—	27
Knackers Yard	12	—	12
Swimming Baths and Sampling	25	—	25
Miscellaneous	75	7	82
	4150	669	4819

(2) NOTICES SERVED, ETC.

Number of Informal Notices served	81
Number of Informal Notices complied with	77
Number of Statutory Notices served	20
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	19

(3) Sanitary Defects and Nuisances

				Defects Etc., Found	Work Done or Abated
(a)	HOUSING				
	Defective roofs, rainwater pipes, etc.	...	...	28	23
	Other external defects	...	...	11	7
	Damp walls	...	...	15	12
	Internal defects	...	...	24	13
(b)	GENERAL				
	Defective W.C.'s and W.C. structures	...	...	8	7
	Houses with defective dustbins	...	...	18	20
	Smoke nuisances	...	...	3	1
	Other nuisances	...	...	1	3
(c)	DRAINAGE				
	Choked drains and W.C.'s	...	...	38	38
	Defective drains	...	...	6	2
	Old drains tested	...	...	—	6

HOUSING

The Council completed 34 houses and 12 flats during 1958. In addition 97 houses were built privately.

Clearance Areas

Sixteen families were rehoused from clearance areas during this year.

One Clearance Order comprising ten houses in South Street was made in 1958.

Individual Unfit Houses

Four families were rehoused from houses dealt with under Sections 16 and 17 of the Housing Act, 1957.

Demolition Orders under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957, were made in respect of eight houses in Church Street, Bocking.

Repair of Houses

Thirty-two houses were rendered fit as a result of informal action under the Housing Act and the Public Health Act and one house was made fit by the owner following statutory action under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Twenty-five houses were inspected jointly with the Surveyor following applications for improvement grants. Schedules of necessary repair work were prepared and sent to applicants in respect of eight of these houses.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	12	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	94	2	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	27	17	1	—
Total ...	133	17	2	—

II. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7.)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	2	1	—	1	—

Outworkers

There are eighteen outworkers in the District all engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

Atmospheric Pollution

Following complaints of fumes, works of improvement have been carried out to a galvanising plant. Although a considerable improvement has been effected, some further work may be necessary to ensure complete success.

The instruments for measuring pollution of the atmosphere continued in operation during this year. The following figures show the results obtained up to the end of 1958.

Figures 1 and 2 set out the average results obtained each month from the daily instrument. There is a seasonal decline which shows the incidence of smoke and sulphur from domestic fires.

Figures 3A and 3B summarize the wind directions for each year. In Braintree there is comparatively little pollution from the North and North-east. The importance of the relation of wind direction can be seen in the result for September, 1958 (Fig. 2). The high amount of smoke in this month can be related to the fact that the wind was largely from the East and South-east in which direction is a factory area containing one of the largest factories in Braintree.

Figure 4 shows the results of the lead peroxide instrument, and again there is a seasonal decline. The highest result, that for May, 1958, although accompanied by a slight increase in the corresponding month in Figure 1, appears to be disproportional and could be a freak result.

Figures 5 and 6 show the results of the deposit gauge and must be read in conjunction, as the pollution is washed down by the rain, a similarity in the peaks can be seen. The result for the soluble deposit for the month of October, 1957, has been omitted as extraneous matter gained access to the gauge bowl and gave an excessively high result.

The following tables compare Braintree with other districts and give some perspective to the amount of pollution:—

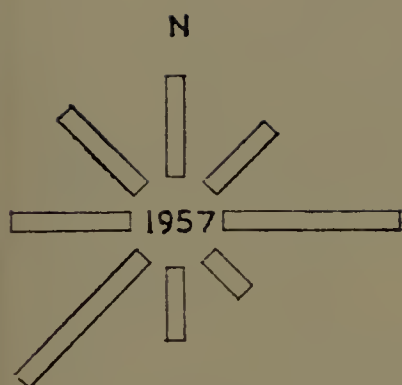
A WINTER MONTH

	Braintree	A small neighbouring Town	Industrial Town (Midlands)	Industrial Town (North)
Total Deposit (Tons/sq. mile) ...	7.2	5.1	39.0	25.3
Smoke (Mg./100 cu. m.) ...	12.0	9.0	42.0	101.0
Sulphur (p.p. 100 m.) ...	5.0	3.0	18.0	15.0

A SUMMER MONTH

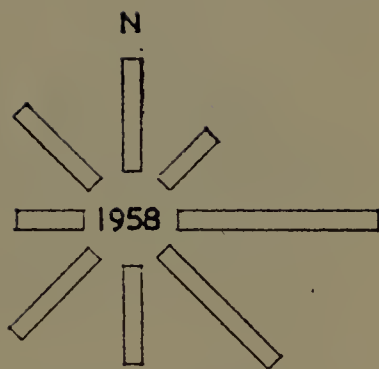
Total Deposit (Tons/sq. mile) ...	6.5	8.9	25.3	19.8
Smoke (Mg./100 cu. m.) ...	2.0	2.0	11.0	45.0
Sulphur (p.p. 100 m.) ...	1.0	1.0	7.0	5.0





A

FIG. 3



B



FIG.4- MG.OF SO_3 PER DAY.

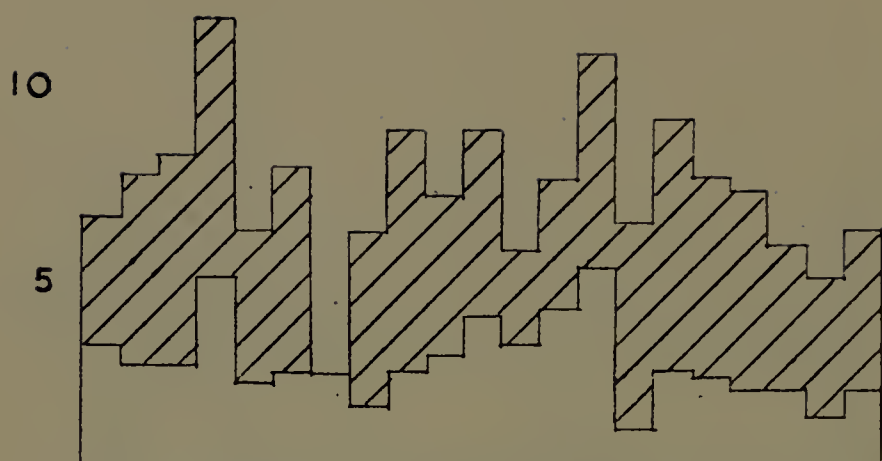




FIG. 5. DEPOSITS. TONS PER SQ. MILE
 SOLUBLE  INSOLUBLE 



FIG. 6. - RAINFALL IN MM.

Shops Act, 1950

No visits were made under this Act during the year.

Moveable Dwellings

Three licences to use land as sites for moveable dwellings were operative during the year.

Ten licences were granted in respect of individual caravans for specified periods.

Eighteen visits were made by your inspectors to all the sites concerned.

Swimming Pools

Two open-air swimming baths, one of which is owned and operated by the Council, were in use during the year.

A careful check was kept on these baths, and in addition to the visits made for the purpose of taking samples of the water, field tests for available chlorine were made at frequent intervals.

Five samples for bacteriological examination were taken from the Council owned pool. All were of satisfactory standard.

One sample for bacteriological examination and one sample for chemical examination were taken from the privately owned pool and were reported upon as being satisfactory.

Insect Pests

One case of infestation with bed bugs was discovered during 1958 in a private house. This was successfully treated with a five per cent. solution of DDT.

Two dwelling houses found to be infested with fleas were treated with insect powder and smoke generators.

The occupiers of private slaughterhouses were advised and assisted regarding fly control and the premises kept under surveillance.

Advice and assistance was also given to occupiers regarding ants and other pests in respect of twelve premises.

Steam Disinfecter

This apparatus was not used during the year.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Four licences to keep pet shops were renewed during the year 1958:

Rent Act, 1957

The following sets out the number of visits made and other relevant details in connection with the above Act:—

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair					
Number of visits (including re-visits) ... ..	...	...	...	...	66
Number of applications for certificates ... ..	...	...	...	...	9
Number of decisions to issue certificates					
(a) in respect of some but not all defects ... ..	...	...	...	...	5
(b) in respect of all defects ... ..	...	...	...	...	3
Number of undertakings given by landlords under Paragraph 5 of the First Schedule ... ..	...	...	...	...	3
Number of undertakings refused under proviso to Paragraph 5 of the First Schedule ... ..	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of certificates issued ... ..	...	...	...	...	7
Applications for Cancellation of Certificates					
Applications by landlords for cancellation of certificates ...	...	...	...	...	8
Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates ... ..	...	...	...	...	2
Decisions to cancel in spite of tenant's objection ... ..	...	...	...	...	2
Certificates cancelled ... ..	...	...	...	...	8

Rodent Control

The services of a full time rodent operator were again shared with neighbouring authorities. The Council continued the scheme for the maintenance of rodent control whereby a grant of 50 per cent. of approved net expenditure was made by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The work done during the twelve months ending 31st March, 1959 was as follows:—

Total number of inspections and re-inspections ...	943
Number of properties found to be infested and treated:—	
Major	3
Minor	129
Mice	14
Number of "block" control schemes carried out	6

During the period covered by this report, your Council continued the free treatment of domestic premises and the treatment of business premises upon a rechargeable basis.

The Council agreed, in conjunction with the other constituent authorities of the Joint Rodent Control Committee, to take over from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food contract work for the destruction of rats and mice on agricultural properties. The scheme has not yet been in operation long enough to warrant a detailed report.

Legal Proceedings

There was no recourse to court action during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

The Council are responsible for the registration of milk distributors and dairies other than dairy farms and is the licensing authority in respect of dealers and supplementary licenses for Pasteurised, Sterilised and Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Six distributors and two dairies are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

The following licenses were issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949:—

Dealers Licenses for Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	4
Supplementary Licenses for Tuberculin Tested Milk		2
Dealers Licenses for Pasteurised Milk	...	3
Supplementary Licenses for Pasteurised Milk	...	2
Dealers Licenses for Sterilised Milk	...	...4

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

Four samples of pasteurised milk and one sample of sterilised milk were submitted for the statutory tests and proved satisfactory.

Ice Cream

Two local manufacturers and their premises were registered for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream. The premises were kept under surveillance and no contravention of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947, was observed during the year.

Seventy-three certificates of registration were in force covering vendors of ice cream retailing from shops and mobile vans in the area. A few vendors registered elsewhere in the County of Essex also operated in the Council's district.

Twenty samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination and the methylene blue reaction with the following results:—

Manufactured in District		Manufactured outside District	
Thirteen in Provisional Grade I		Seven in Provisional Grade I	
Nil in Provisional Grade II		Nil in Provisional Grade II	
Nil in Provisional Grade III		Nil in Provisional Grade III	
Nil in Provisional Grade IV		Nil in Provisional Grade IV	

In addition six ice lollies, four of which were manufactured in the District were submitted for examination. They were reported upon as being satisfactory except those manufactured outside the District which had a high bacterial count.

Meat

There are five slaughterhouses in use in the District, one of which is also licensed and used for the slaughter of horses.

All animals, including horses, slaughtered in the Council's area were inspected.

The Government continued the scheme for payment of a grant to local authorities who are carrying a heavy burden in connection with meat inspection and the Council qualified for a grant of £350 in respect of the financial year 1957-58.

Horseflesh slaughtered for human consumption in the Urban District is sold outside the Council's area.

Ten goats slaughtered for human consumption were also inspected.

The following sets out the particulars of animals slaughtered and of inspections and condemnations during the year:—

	Cattle excluding Cows Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	2973	505	434	6490	17963	717
Number Inspected	2973	505	434	6490	17963	717
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis:—						
Whole carcases condemned	2	5	4	4	25	2
Weight in lb. condemned ...	569	2759	294	175	2056	1663
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	203	54	4	46	557	41
Weight in lb. condemned ...	1920	608	58	124	1680	972
Percentage affected	6.9	11.7	1.84	0.77	3.18	6.0
Tuberculosis only:—						
Whole carcases condemned	2	1	—	—	—	—
Weight in lb. condemned ...	978	420	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	97	24	—	—	299	—
Weight in lb. condemned ...	2153	730	—	—	3343	—
Percentage affected	3.33	4.9	—	—	1.67	—
Cysticercosis:—						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	9	—	—	—	—	—
Weight in lb. condemned	191	500	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	5	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	1	—	—	—	—
Percentage affected	0.33	1.98	—	—	—	—

The carcases and other offals found to be infected with localised cysticercus bovis were sent for refrigeration treatment in a neighbouring town. Five beasts were found to be so affected and sent for refrigeration.

All condemned meat and offals were collected on behalf of the Council by a private contractor and after treatment used for animal feeding. This system provides adequate safeguards to public health.

Other Foods

As a result of inspections carried out at food shops and food preparing premises in the district, the following items were condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year:—

	lb.		lb.
Bacon	33	Tinned Ham	293
Tinned Beans	10	Tinned Meat	238
Corned Beef	304	Tinned Milk	5
Cheese	256	Oatmeal	112
Chicken	20	Tinned Peas	67
Fresh Fish	20	New Potatoes	280
Tinned Fish	2	Preserves	7
Dried Fruit	22	Tinned Tomatoes	45
Tinned Fruit	183	Miscellaneous	3
TOTAL—1,900lb.			

The food was disposed of either by burial at the Council tip or diverted where suitable to the Council pig food scheme.

Food Preparing Premises

The number of premises totalling 191 where food is prepared, stored or retailed is as follows:—

Hotels and Licensed Premises	...	...	...	42
Restaurants (including Snack Bars)	...	...	...	17
Works Canteens	...	...	...	8
School Canteens	...	...	...	9
Butchers	...	...	...	14
Food Manufacturing Premises	...	...	...	2
Wet and Dried Fish Shops	...	...	...	10
Bakehouses	...	...	...	9
Bread and Cake Confectioners	...	...	...	4
Grocers	...	...	...	45
Greengrocers	...	...	...	12
Other Food Shops	...	...	...	19

Of these numbers, shops dealing with more than one of these items are classified once.

Details regarding milk and ice cream appear under separate headings.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

Details of the various contraventions found are given below:—

	Regulation	Contraventions	
		Found	Remedied
6	Cleanliness of equipment, etc.	—	3
8	Food to be protected from risk of contamination	—	2
14	Sanitary conveniences	1	—
16	Wash hand basins to be provided	2	4
18	Accommodation for clothing, etc.	—	2
19	Facilities for washing food and equipment	—	1
20	Lighting of food rooms	—	1
23	Cleanliness and repair etc., of food rooms	1	4
24	Accumulation of refuse, etc.	—	2

Where there is more than one contravention of a regulation in respect of any premises it is recorded once only in the above table.

Sampling of Food and Drugs

The provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, relating to the sampling of food and drugs are administered by the Weights and Measures Department of the Essex County Council. The Chief Inspector of that Department has kindly supplied the following details of the samples taken during the year:—

Butter	5	Lemon Juice	1
Cheese	1	Margarine	1
Cooking Fat	1	Meat Paste	1
Fish Paste	1	Milk	37
Plain Flour	1	Preserves	1
Self Raising Flour	1	Soft Drinks	1
Lard	1	Total	54

Of the milk samples, 7 were of school milk and 16 of milk delivered to hospitals. In addition one sample for sale in the Urban District was taken outside the District.

In addition to the above, the following samples were taken at the premises of wholesalers outside the Urban District who supply shops within the Urban District:—

Baking Powder	2	Meat Paste	4
Butter	10	Mustard	3
Coffee Mixtures	3	Cooked Meats	4
Sugar and Flour		Instant Postum	1
Confectionery	4	Preserves	15
Cream	1	Saccharin	2
Curry	2	Salad Cream	1
Fish Paste	3	Sausages	2
Gelatine	2	Soft Drinks	6
Plain Flour	4	Cream Soup	1
Self Raising Flour	4	Suet	2
Golden Raising Powder	1	Buttered Sweets	5
Jellies	4	Tomato Ketchup	2
Margarine	13		

A further total of 101 samples

It is pleasing to record that all these samples proved on analysis to be satisfactory.